

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT AMMAN 1986 DATED 15 APR73 SENT ACTION
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QUOTE. C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1986

E. O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JO, IS, LE

SUBJ: JORDANIAN REACTIONS TO BEIRUT RAID AND THE " BIG LIE"

1. UNLIKE MEDIA ELSEWHERE IN ARAB WORLD, JORDAN PRESS, RADIO AND TV HAVE CAREFULLY AVOIDED PUBLICIZING FEDAYEEN ACCUSATION THAT US COOPERATED WITH ISRAELIS. INITIAL PRESS REPORTS REFERRED TO " BIG LIE" IN LOW- KEY FASHION AND EMPHASIZED DENIAL BY AM-EMBASSY BEIRUT. LATER MEDIA COVERAGE HAS DOWNPLAYED ACCUSATION WHILE GIVING PROMINENCE TO SUBSEQUENT OFFICIAL DENIALS FROM WASHINGTON. HANDLING APPROXIMATELY SAME IN ALL THREE MAJOR INFORMATION CHANNELS; HOWEVER, NEWSPAPER EDITORS HAVE STRESSED THEME THAT LEBANON'S HUMILIATION MAINLY RESULT OF ARAB DISUNITY. AR RAYY WARNED APRIL 12 THAT BEIRUT OPERATION " ONLY THE BEGINNING" UNLESS ARABS CLOSE RANKS. FOLLOWING DAY AD DESTOUR PREDICTED THAT SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE WILL LEAD TO NOTHING: " ARABS SHOULD NOT EXPECT ANY CHANGE IN WORLD ATTITUDE TOWARD THEM UNLESS THEY STRIVE TO CHANGE THEIR DIVIDED REALITY".

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2. INDIVIDUAL REACTIONS MORE VARIED. MANY UPPER- LEVEL GOJ OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY EAST BANKERS, PLEASED IF NOT GLEEFUL AT THIS DEFT BLOW TO FEDAYEEN. THIS GROUP ALSO DERIVES SOME SATISFACTION FROM DISCOMFORT OF LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WHOSE PALESTINIAN POLICY REGARDED AS EQUIVOCAL. REFERRING TO GOL INTERNAL CRISIS, SENIOR PALACE ADVISOR TOLD EMBOFF WITH GRIM SATISFACTION: " THE LEBANESE ARE FINISHED". UPPER- LEVEL PALESTINIANS LESS PLEASED BUT, AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, GIVE LITTLE CREDENCE TO " BIG LIE." HOWEVER, JORDANIAN " MASSES", PARTICULARLY WEST BANKERS, WELL EXPOSED TO RADICAL ARAB BROADCASTING, PLO ACCUSATIONS, THEREFORE, HAVE SOME CURRENCY AT STREET LEVEL. AT THE LEAST, PRO- PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS CONFUSED AND FRUSTED. WEST GERMAN AND BRITISH EMBASSIES REPORT SIMILAR RANGE OF REACTIONS. BROWN

UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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